

Issued on: June 18, 2008.

**William A. Quade,**

*Associate Administrator for Enforcement and Program Delivery.*

[FR Doc. E8-14755 Filed 6-27-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### U.S. Maritime Administration

#### Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment

[Docket No. 2008-0060]

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Maritime Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Maritime Administration is issuing a Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Removal of Non-Retention Vessels from National Defense Reserve Fleet (NDRF) Sites for Disposal. The Draft EA has been prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (U.S.C. 4231 *et seq.*) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508). The Maritime Administration invites comments on the Draft EA.

The purpose of the Programmatic EA is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts from and alternatives to the Removal of Non-Retention Vessels from National Defense Reserve Fleet Sites for Disposal proposed by the Maritime Administration. The Maritime Administration is charged with disposing of obsolete "non-retention" U.S. government-owned merchant type vessels of 1,500 gross tons or more per Section 203 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U.S.C. 548 (2008)). Non-retention vessels are vessels that have been determined by the Maritime Administration to be of insufficient value for commercial or military operation by the Federal Government to merit further preservation. 46 U.S.C. 57102 (2008). The Maritime Administration's non-retention ships are located at three fleet anchorages in the James River, Virginia; Beaumont, Texas; and Suisun Bay, California.

The Maritime Administration is proposing to tow obsolete vessels from these three fleet anchorages either to

one of seven Maritime Administration-approved or provisionally approved recycling facilities across the United States, or to various locations (to be determined on a case-by-case basis) to be used as artificial reefs, or sold for reuse as limited by applicable law, or to be donated for use as memorials and museums, or to be used by the U.S. Navy in at-sea training exercises referred to as Sinking Exercises, or SINKEX, during which the Navy fires live munitions at the vessel to give trainees a better sense of the capabilities of Navy weaponry. Following the use of live fire, vessels are allowed to sink to the sea bottom.

**DATES:** Written comments on this Draft Programmatic EA will be accepted on or before August 14, 2008.

*Address for Further Information:* To send comments or for more information, contact: Carolyn E. Junemann, U.S. Maritime Administration, Office of Environment, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., W25-217, Washington, DC 20590, or e-mail: [Carolyn.junemann@dot.gov](mailto:Carolyn.junemann@dot.gov).

A copy of the Draft Programmatic EA can be obtained or viewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The files are in a portable document format (pdf); in order to review or print the document, users need to obtain a free copy of Acrobat Reader. The Acrobat Reader can be obtained from <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>.

Copies of the Draft Programmatic EA will also be available for public review during normal business hours at the following locations: Beaumont Public Library, 801 Pearl St, Beaumont, TX 77701; Surry Public Library, 11640 Rolfe Hwy., Surry, VA 23882; Virgil I. Grissom Public Library, 366 DeShazor Drive, Newport News, VA 23608; and Benicia Public Library, 150 E L St., Benicia, CA 94510.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The mission of the Maritime Administration is to strengthen the U.S. maritime transportation system, including infrastructure, industry, and labor, to meet the economic and security needs of the United States, and to promote the development and maintenance of an adequate, well-balanced U.S. merchant marine, sufficient to carry the nation's domestic waterborne commerce and a substantial portion of its waterborne foreign commerce, and capable of service as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency. The Maritime Administration also seeks to ensure that the United States maintains adequate shipbuilding and repair services, efficient ports, effective intermodal water and land

transportation systems, and reserve shipping capacity for use in time of national emergency.

The Maritime Administration is charged with disposing of obsolete "non-retention" U.S. government-owned merchant type vessels of 1,500 gross tons or more per Section 203 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U.S.C. 548 (2008)). Non-retention vessels are vessels that have been determined by the Maritime Administration to be of insufficient value for commercial or military operation by the Federal Government to merit further preservation by the Federal Government. 46 U.S.C. 57102 (2008). The Maritime Administration's non-retention ships are located at three fleet anchorages in the James River, Virginia; Beaumont, Texas; and Suisun Bay, California.

Ongoing maintenance of non-retention vessels is limited to that which is necessary to maintain the integrity of the hull and keeping the established preservation systems in good order. The majority of non-retention NDRF vessels are systematically being recycled. However, some vessels have been loaned to other Government agencies, sold for reuse in accordance with applicable law, used as artificial reefs, used as museums, and used for military and civilian training. All of the vessels to be removed are obsolete non-retention vessels that Congress has directed the Maritime Administration to dispose of under the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, as amended.

The Maritime Administration continues to consider domestic dismantling (recycling) as the predominant means of vessel disposal, but continually evaluates alternative means of disposal such as artificial reefing, sale for reuse, deep-water sinking through the Navy's SINKEX Program, and donations to historic organizations when possible.

Domestic recyclers of obsolete NDRF vessels are required to follow all Federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing worker safety and environmental protection. Specific authority to pay for recycling provided in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Pub. L. 106-259 § 8136), was enacted on August 9, 2000, and included a budget for the accelerated recycling of those vessels in the "worst condition." All other alternatives for disposal are required to be in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Selection of recycling facilities was included in the 2000

Congressional amendments to section 6(c)(1) of the National Maritime Heritage Act (NMHA), which directed the Maritime Administration to dispose of all obsolete vessels "in the manner that provides the best value to the Government" (Pub. L. 106-398, § 3502(a)). In addition, it provided subsection (b) Selection of Scrapping Facilities, which stated that:

The Secretary of Transportation may recycle obsolete vessels pursuant to Section 6(c)(1) of the NMHA of 1994 [16 United States Code (USC) § 5405(c)(1)] through qualified dismantlement facilities, using the most expeditious recycling methodology and location practicable. Dismantlement facilities shall be selected under that section on a best value basis consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act \* \* \* taking into consideration, among other things, the ability of facilities to dismantle vessels; (1) at least cost to the Government; (2) in a timely manner; (3) giving consideration to worker safety and the environment; and (4) in a manner that minimizes the geographic distance that a vessel must be towed when towing a vessel poses a serious threat to the environment (Pub. L. 106-398, § 3502(b), 114 Stat. 1654a-490 (2000)).

With this notice, the Maritime Administration invites any affected Federal, State, and local Agencies and other interested persons to comment on the Draft Programmatic EA. Comments may be submitted by mail to the Docket Clerk, Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Comments may be hand delivered to Room W12-140 on the plaza level of the U.S. Department of Transportation at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. Written comments should refer to docket number MARAD 2008-0060. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket are available at <http://www.regulations.gov>. No comments will be accepted after August 14, 2008.

(Authority: 49 CFR 1.66)

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.  
Dated: June 24, 2008.

**Murray Bloom,**

*Acting Secretary, Maritime Administration.*  
[FR Doc. E8-14773 Filed 6-27-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

**Senior Executive Service; Legal Division Performance Review Board**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Treasury.  
**ACTION:** Notice of members of the Legal Division Performance Review Board (PRB).

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4), this notice announces the appointment of members of the Legal Division PRB. The purpose of this Board is to review and make recommendations concerning proposed performance appraisals, ratings, bonuses, and other appropriate personnel actions for incumbents of SES positions in the Legal Division.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* June 30, 2008.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen Albrecht, Counselor to the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 3000, Washington, DC 20220, *Telephone:* (202) 622-1143 (this is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Composition of Legal Division PRB**

The Board shall consist of at least three members. In the case of an appraisal of a career appointee, more than half the members shall consist of career appointees. Composition of the specific PRBs will be determined on an ad hoc basis from among the individuals listed in this notice.

The names and titles of the PRB members are as follows:  
Stephen M. Albrecht, Counselor to the General Counsel;  
Peter A. Bieger, Deputy Assistant General Counsel (Banking and Finance);  
John Harrington, International Tax Counsel;  
H. Stephen Kesselman, Deputy Chief Counsel (Operations), Internal Revenue Service;  
Bernard J. Knight, Assistant General Counsel (General Law, Ethics and Regulation);  
Donald L. Korb, Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service;  
Richard Lepley, Deputy Assistant General Counsel (General Law and Regulation);  
M.J.K. Maher, Jr., Deputy Assistant General Counsel (Enforcement & Intelligence);  
Margaret V. Marquette, Chief Counsel, Financial Management Service;  
Mark Monborne, Assistant General Counsel (Enforcement & Intelligence);  
Himamauli Das, Assistant General Counsel (International Affairs);  
Clarissa C. Potter, Deputy Chief Counsel (Technical), Internal Revenue Service;

Kevin Rice, Chief Counsel, Bureau of Engraving and Printing;  
Laurie Schaffer, Assistant General Counsel (Banking and Finance);  
Daniel P. Shaver, Chief Counsel, United States Mint;  
Sean M. Thornton, Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control;  
Robert M. Tobiassen, Chief Counsel, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, and  
Paul Wolfeitch, Chief Counsel, Bureau of Public Debt.

Dated: June 23, 2008.

**Stephen M. Albrecht,**

*Counselor to the General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. E8-14677 Filed 6-27-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-25-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

[OMB Control No. 2900-0665]

**Agency Information Collection (Direct Deposit Enrollment/Change) Activities Under OMB Review**

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before July 30, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through <http://www.Regulations.gov>; or to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0665" in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005R1B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-7485, fax (202) 273-0443 or e-mail [denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov](mailto:denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0665."

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Direct Deposit Enrollment/Change, VA Form 29-0309.